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DISARMAMENT.

JULES SIMON.

The European States have stretched the cord until it is ready to break, and it will bear no more strain. The desire of each to surpass the others in an effort to increase military strength brings upon commerce and agriculture crushing burdens, which will not admit of any increase. Moreover, all the intellectual forces of a country are thus rendered sterile, being directed only to one end—that of increasing the supply of brute force. In all this we find an abnormal condition of things, which must end in general disarmament. Let us well understand that word, however. We do not mean by it the entire suppression of the military instrument, but only its gradual reduction everywhere by mutual consent, and at a congress held for the purpose. It is obvious that if the European Governments would consent to reduce their expenditure on this head by, say, fifty per cent., their proportionate strength would remain the same. We may well ask why this should not be carried out, looking at the immense benefit which would result.

PROF. VIRCHOW.

At a meeting of Liberal electors recently held at Berlin, this distinguished scientist, referring to the programme of the Progressist Party, said that he intended to bring forward in the newly-elected Reichstag his proposals for disarmament, notwithstanding the violent attacks made upon him for the course he had taken on this subject.

AMERICAN INDIFFERENCE TO WAR.

We Anglo-Saxons who live in the old world have perhaps a clearer conception of our duty than those who are separated from Europe by three thousand miles of water. From their safe security Americans regard the troubles of Europe with that awful indifference which characterizes us when we read with but languid interest that an inundation in China has devastated a populous province. Even when they visit Europe they only see the gay side of its civilization, or at best the multitudinous forms of Christian activity. The crushing burden of taxation, the abominations of the conscription, the feverish unrest of the nations, under the war cloud that never shows a rift of bright blue sky—these things pass unseen and unnoticed; but we who are only separated from the continent by a narrow streak of sea have to bear a heavy load in consequence, and are never sure that when the next great struggle comes we shall not be drawn into the vortex.—*Howard Evans, editor of the London Echo.*

—The Universal Peace Union of Philadelphia has purchased ten acres of ground, at Mystic, in Connecticut, with a view to erect thereon a hall large enough to accommodate the great annual gatherings which have long been held in that place in the interests of peace. These assemblies are usually attended by three to five thousand persons.

This "Temple of Peace," will be especially useful in case of bad weather during any part of the three days meetings. They solicit aid in paying for this, the first building erected in America, exclusively to promote the cause of peace. It is to be capacious but inexpensive and ought to be ready for dedication before the Universal Peace Congress of 1892. It is an enterprise eminently worthy of aid.

NEW ANGLO-AMERICAN TREATY.

The contents of the new extradition treaty with Great Britain, negotiated by Secretary Blaine and confirmed by the Senate has been made public. The treaty will include these crimes in the extraditable list:

1—Manslaughter.

2—Counterfeiting or altering money; uttering or bringing into circulation counterfeit or altered money.

3—Embezzlement, larceny, obtaining money, goods or valuable securities by false pretences; receiving any money, valuable security or other property, knowing the same to have been embezzled, stolen or fraudulently obtained.

4—Fraud by a bailee, banker, agent, factor, Trustee, or Director or member or officer of any company, made criminal by the laws of both countries.

5—Perjury, or subornation of perjury.

6—Rape, abduction, child stealing, kidnapping.

7—Burglary, housebreaking or shopbreaking.

8—Piracy, by the laws of nations.

9—Revolt, or conspiracy to revolt, by two or more persons on board a ship on the high seas against the authority of the master; wrongfully sinking or destroying a vessel at sea, or attempting to do so; assaults on board a ship on the high seas with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

10—Crimes and offences against the laws of both countries for the suppression of slavery and slave trading.

Extradition is also to take place for participation in any of the crimes mentioned in this convention or in the aforesaid tenth article; provided such participation be punishable by the laws of both countries.

THE EUROPEAN NATIONAL DEBTS, 1890.

The national debts of Europe in 1885-'6 amounted to \$23,420,000,000; the interest alone upon this amount being \$1,068,200,000 per annum. In 1865-'6 the war debt was \$13,200,000,000, and the interest \$487,500,000, so that in the twenty years 1865-'6 to 1885-'6, the total indebtedness of Europe has increased by \$10,800,000,000, and the annual amount payable for interest and sinking funds by \$580,600,000,000; America not having an annual drain for military requirements is fast paying her debt.

	Debt.	Interest.	Annual cost of Army and Navy.
France	\$6,200,000,000	\$267,200,000	\$171,800,000
Russia	3,618,600,000	208,800,000	197,600,000
Great Britain . .	3,565,800,000	147,400,000	148,000,000
Austria-Hungary .	2,493,200,000	119,400,000	68,400,000
Italy	2,226,200,000	106,400,000	68,600,000
German Empire .	1,790,800,000	75,600,000	108,000,000
Spain	1,208,400,000	54,800,000	40,000,000
Portugal	564,200,000	17,800,000	7,800,000
Turkey	524,400,000	11,000,000	40,000,000
The Netherlands .	452,000,000	14,000,000	14,000,000
Belgium	354,200,000	17,400,000	9,200,000
Roumania	145,800,000	11,800,000	5,800,000
Greece	69,600,000	6,600,000	4,600,000
Sweden	69,000,000	3,200,000	7,000,000
Denmark	54,800,000	2,400,000	4,600,000
Servia	48,800,000	2,800,000	3,200,000
Norway	30,200,000	1,200,000	3,600,000
Switzerland . . .	6,400,000	400,000	3,400,000
	\$23,422,400,000	\$1,068,200,000	\$905,600,000